

# Earth First! Action Update

Issue 68 May 2000



The Monthly Round up of  
Ecological, and Other, Direct  
Action from Around Britain

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar principles to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

"To me, Spring is a movement, a mighty surging upward. It isn't coaxed from above, but moved from below." Richardson Wright

## IMF and World Bank Protests

On 16<sup>th</sup> April finance ministers and central bankers from 25 countries, as well as ministers from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and WTO and other members of the world economic elite went to Washington DC, USA. The IMF and World Bank sponsored Structural Adjustment Programmes destroy local economies, ravage the environment, wipe out jobs, cause famine, and enrich a corrupt corporate elite. These institutions impose 'free market' policies on every country on the planet putting profit and economic growth above all else.

The Washington DC protests against the International Monetary Fund/World Bank spring meetings were billed as Seattle II. In the week before the Washington police used intimidation tactics - heavy police presence, circling helicopters, arresting 600 people at an anti-Gap demonstration, motorbike charging a critical mass bike ride, closing down the direct action convergence centre for 'fire violations' and confiscating bikes, puppets etc. Authorities were embarrassed when the 'incendiary devices' they confiscated were identified as milk jugs and other items from the recycling bin!

On 16<sup>th</sup> April, 20-30,000 protesters took part in the rally, protest and blockade in the 60-80 blocks surrounding the IMF and World Bank Buildings. Police barricaded two blocks from the target, closing down the city, and many delegates couldn't get through. The next day was more serious. Groups held street parties and blockades at key intersections. As the

World Bank's Development Committee met inside a 100 block exclusion zone, a column of protesters managed to penetrate the perimeter. Hundreds were arrested after voluntarily crossing the police line. About 100 people held a vigil outside the prison, in solidarity with those inside, and will stay until the last people in custody are released.  
[www.a16.org](http://www.a16.org)



## Mayday 2000

Mayday 2000 is a global day of action and carnival against capitalism. Mayday is red for international workers day, green for Beltane - the ancient fire and fertility festival that signals transformation and rebirth, and black for the anarchists executed for their part in strikes on Mayday 1886. Mayday is a time when red, green and black converge - a catalyst for hope and possibility... Mayday is our day - a day to celebrate the reality of our desires...

## Initiative Against Economic Globalization - Prague 2000

Some 20,000 representatives of global capital (world bankers, economists and financiers) are expected to come to Prague in September to attend the 55th annual summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. This prestigious meeting is the first of its kind in the Central and Eastern Europe and will be of a great importance. Various activities are planned including non-violent demonstrations, info campaigns, and a Festival of Art and Resistance.  
<http://imf2000.webjump.com> or  
[Prague2000\\_cz@hotmail.com](mailto:Prague2000_cz@hotmail.com).

If you want to know more about the world wide resistance to the corporate takeover of the world contact Peoples Global Action (see contacts page).

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles. If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting in the road are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists.

## News in Brief

On April 9th the Earth Liberation Front blocked the toilet of the Waitrose Supermarket in Stroud, Gloucestershire. The action was carried out because the John Lewis Partnership, who own Waitrose, kill British wildlife on their shooting estate in Hampshire. The JLP give wildlife shit, so the ELF have literally given the shit back to the JLP!

British activists subverted Monsanto's headquarters in St Louis USA. The Monsanto Motto was changed from "Food, Health and Hope" to "Fraud, Stealth and Hype."

Shamrock Farm at Small Dole is closing down after 50 years of torturing monkeys. "Hats off to Save the Shamrock Monkeys!"

Simon Jones was killed at Shoreham Docks in 1998 when forced to do dangerous casual work he wasn't trained for. His family has won a High Court battle forcing the Director of Public Prosecutions to reconsider his dodgy decision not to bring corporate manslaughter charges against Simon's employers. This was a first and will hopefully set a precedent, helping the campaign against casualisation of labour sparked by Simon's death. [www.simonjones.org](http://www.simonjones.org)

Members of Voices in the Wilderness have gone on a sanctions-breaking mission to Iraq. They will be carrying medical equipment, medical journals and toys for delivery to children's hospitals. They have not applied for export licences for the items they are taking to Iraq and could be prosecuted for their actions. Voices in the Wilderness UK 01865 243 232

An anti-biotech activist group, the Petaluma Pruners, destroyed grape plants grown by the biotechnology corporation Vinifera in California.

On April Fool's Day a laugh-in took place at the naval base near Faslane Peace Camp, Helensburgh, Scotland. Around 100 people in fancy dress laughed at workers on their way into the base, as well as doing April Fool actions like 'cutting' the fence with plastic tools. The police even joined in, telling campers that the base was moving to America, and asking if the peace camp would follow!

## U'wa Protest in London

On 18 April an indigenous leader from Colombia joined a protest in the City of London as part of the U'wa's campaign to save their ancestral lands from oil exploitation. The protest involved a wide range of groups and took place outside the offices of Fidelity Investments. The Fidelity Group is one of the largest shareholders in the US-based Occidental Petroleum Company, which is set to drill for oil right next to U'wa territory. A Colombian court last month ordered Occidental to halt all construction work on its Gibraltar 1 well-site on the grounds that the drilling would violate the "fundamental rights" of the U'wa people including their right to life. The company, after admitting they never consulted with the U'wa, said it will appeal the decision. As the President of the U'wa said, "The injunction speaks of the suspension of the project, not the cancellation. We have taken an important step and are happy because we have advanced in our struggle even though this has come at great sacrifice. We must defend the life of the U'wa..." <http://www.ran.org>

## The Modem is Mightier than the Sword

An electronic protest against the Daily Mail and London Evening Standard was a great success, with the Daily Mail letters editor saying they had received over 1,000 e-mails complaining about their coverage of asylum seekers, which has been stirring up racism and fuelling hostility towards refugees. The Guardian reported that "Management at the paper have been rattled by the hostile response from readers over its asylum rantings." The first batch of e-mails got a standard response but as the protest grew both papers began to send snotty replies! They also had to contend with a protest of around 100 people outside their offices on the 13th April with constant chanting ("Daily Mail - Hate Mail, Evening Standard - racist standards"). Future protests are planned. Contact the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns on 0121 554 6947 [www.ncadc.demon.co.uk/](http://www.ncadc.demon.co.uk/)

## Mad Pride

Mad Pride is an idea which came out of the 1997 Gay Pride Festival in London. A few survivors of the mental health system said "We could do with a festival like this". And so a collection of individuals got together and slowly started organising themselves to put on events, and eventually develop Mad Pride, which it is hoped will really take off in the year 2000.

The objectives are to promote positive images of mental health, to counteract discrimination and prejudice towards people who have experienced mental distress, to educate the public in mental health issues, to campaign for better mental health provision, to campaign for less oppressive and more enabling legislation and practice guidelines, and to promote economic, social, environmental and cultural integration of users/survivors into mainstream society and their active participation and integration into community life. In terms of the politics of the Mental Health user movement, there has been a rapid disillusionment with New Labour's Mental Health policies. New Labour's early statement of intent, 'No argument with Compulsory Treatment', has really pissed everybody off. How can you put 'Compulsory' and 'Treatment' together? Shouldn't 'Treatment' involve a degree of choice? What they really mean is 'Forcibly Medicate', even when people are well. Using this fancy style of language, no doubt we will see New Labour renaming prisons as 'Compulsory Hostels'! To fight against these coercive measures, people need to fight back by having fun, madness, benefit gigs etc. Hence, Mad Pride has been launched. A voice in the darkness, or just some 'mad sense'? Tel: 0958 907357 [mark@ctono.freemove.co.uk](mailto:mark@ctono.freemove.co.uk) <http://www.ctono.freemove.co.uk>

## Nuke Convoy Stopped

Eight protestors were arrested after halting a convoy carrying Trident nuclear warheads going to the nuclear submarine base at Faslane on the Clyde. Two people locked on, while another painted "illegal" on the side of the lorry in 2-foot high letters, and decorated the windscreen. The 8 were later released without charge. The convoy was delayed for up to 3 hours at considerable cost to the Ministry of Defence.

## RESISTANCE IS FERTILE

Now that Spring is in the air, the first shoots of a truly global campaign against Genetic Engineering are bursting forth as campaigners around the world unite to prevent the Biotechnology companies from enslaving the earth's resources for their own ends. 'Resistance is Fertile', a Global Week of Action, sowed seeds for a future which doesn't involve the patenting and genetic engineering of the species of the world. Instead campaigners celebrated the diversity of food and life on this planet.

Many different types of event took place, a selection of which are below. More can be found at [www.resistanceisfertile.org](http://www.resistanceisfertile.org)

### Crops a Flop Party

The sun shone at Gaddesden Row, Heinel Hempstead on Sunday, but too late to revive the genetically modified crops which have faded away. More than 100 people from as far away as Devon came to celebrate the failure of farmer Fiddaman's winter oilseed rape to flower. Speeches, jugglers and music kept partygoers entertained before everyone embarked on a mass march around the fields. A decision had been made by the local group to not decontaminate the site but to ask the Government to terminate this farcical trial. It was a great day for activists from far and wide to get together and see the site. Another rally will be held in June at the site so watch this space...Contact 0468 337054 [MartinHumphrey@compuserve.com](mailto:MartinHumphrey@compuserve.com)

### Community Garden planted opposite Welsh Assembly

After the Assembly's decision to allow GM crops to be planted in Wales, an organic garden was planted opposite the Assembly in support of a GM free Welsh environment. Campaigners planted rare seed varieties, organic vegetables, wild flowers, trees and herbs and then enjoyed an organic picnic next to the garden.

### Worthing Against TerrorBill

A successful protest was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, while the same day saw the opening of the 'Terrorist Tearooms', a squat infoshop/café in the High Street. This offered free tea coffee and information to the public for nine days non-stop, and had displays, a reading room, videos etc. As a finale, a couple of spectacular stunts were staged, involving some daredevil climbing. The police response to one protester in the rafters plus a few supporters handing out leaflets was to send in the 'riot' cavalry once again. Brave cops, brandishing their batons, chased and arrested a 12-year-old boy (for reasons

### Patent Action

5 campaigners visited the UK Patent Office, Newport, Wales. They made their presence felt inside the building, with giant papier-mache patented vegetables and animals and a large banner. This resulted in a two hour meeting with the Policy Advisor to the Chief Executive and Public Relations advisors.



### Greenpeace Cleared

28 Greenpeace activists have been found not guilty of theft after a trial where they admitted destroying a GM crop in Norfolk, last July. It was cut down and sealed in bags to prevent contamination of the environment. The Jury failed to reach a verdict on whether the activists had caused criminal damage to the plants or not, so their may be a retrial.

unknown), along with 2 adults who tried to intervene on his behalf. The climber was also arrested after his amazing 5-hour stint. If you haven't heard by now, the Prevention of Terrorism Act will attempt to stamp out protests by labelling political activists as terrorists. The Terrorist Tearooms have now been boarded up by landlords West Sussex County Council. We wait to see if the authorities put this publicly owned building to as good use as the activists they want to see in jail. Worthing Against the Terror Bill, PO Box 4144, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7NZ. [www.worthing.eco-action.org/porkbolter](http://www.worthing.eco-action.org/porkbolter)

### April Fool Parade

Shoppers in Manchester were taken by surprise on Saturday 1st April when several hundred wannabe terrorists, disguised in police uniforms and riot gear, attempted to intimidate and coerce a group of fluffy protestors into, well, not protesting. The April Fool Parade was organised to make the point that the Terrorism Bill is so extreme and ridiculous that it is a joke - only not a particularly amusing one. About 400 people gathered armed with some decidedly suspicious leaflets, a hugely subversive 'Stop the Terrorism Bill, Terror Bill = Terror State' banner, pig masks, cameras, musical instruments, and pantomime police helmets. Just to help make the point, a large number of humourless jokers - sorry, law enforcement officers also turned up, along with intelligence gatherers (sic) and the usual hardware, including helicopter. The plan was to parade around the city for an hour or so, stopping off at the Freemason's and then the Town Hall for a chat over tea and buncakes about government legislation and the doings of the hidden state. Nothing too antagonistic, just a few pranks and a bit of mockery. However, police jokers penned in the crowd, cordoned off the shopping area, set up road blocks, and traffic ground to a halt on Cross Street and the surrounding area...for hours! A pedal powered sound system turned up and the t-party began to warm up. Each time a route to leave the street looked clear a bunch of jokers formed a blockading line, and others began to pen in the crowd from all sides. Tactics of coercion and intimidation started to be deployed. Three people were nicked, with no pretence even of observing arresting procedure. Sensing that the angry young men were running short of patience, the parade of fool's finally and light heartedly moved along, then spotted a gap in the official lines and everybody dispersed simultaneously to the peace gardens. The crowd then headed for an old haunt, Oxford Road, but the police were now ahead of the game, and soon the Parade was penned in once more. So they partied for another hour or so, and finally left, safe and unharmed, dignity intact, no major battle kicking off, with 5- 6,000 leaflets on the Terrorism Bill passed out to an unaware public, and a day to remember. More info about the Terrorism Bill 01273 298 192 [www.blagged.freeserv.co.uk/terrorbill/index.html](http://www.blagged.freeserv.co.uk/terrorbill/index.html)

# Medical Genetics



## The Scary Bit

When they start talking about "quality" then it's time to get worried. For instance, try Dr Bob Edwards, pioneer of IVF treatment ('test-tube babies') in Britain:

*Soon it will be a sin for parents to have a child which carries the heavy burden of genetic disease. We are entering a world where we have to consider the quality of our children.*

OK, so most geneticists aren't as blatant as Edwards. They have worked out that human genetics has a bad 'history'. The clever ones know that anything with "genetics" in its name is suspicious, thanks to the abuse of science, the public and the environment by the GM food companies.

So they claim that the new genetics is "good science" and has nothing in common with the "bad genetics" of Nazi Germany. They hide behind "pure" science and research. They reassure us that "designer babies" and screening for the "gay gene" are out of the question. But that's not enough to convince a sceptical public.

## The Comfortable Bit

So they have another, magic weapon. It's a weapon that most environmentalists haven't had to deal with. Disabled rights campaigners know the game — they've had it thrown at them for decades. The weapon is the N.H.S., or more generally health care. It's magic, because it transforms a dirty science ("genetics" = "Frankenstein foods") into something good, kind and caring ("helping sick people"). It even makes it worth throwing millions of pounds of public money at ("help us find a cure for cancer").

## The Really Scary Bit

But still they talk about the "normal" genome, point to "faulty" genes, and offer "solutions" based on reducing diversity and eliminating disabled people. Sure, people born with impairments don't have an easy life: inaccessible public transport, fewer facilities, job

discrimination, social prejudice. Those are all problems we can do something about. The only "problem" identified by medical genetics is the disabled people themselves.



## The Un-Comfortable Bit

So how to respond to the "we're just helping parents have healthy babies" facade. There are about four possible responses:

- 1) We can hide behind fundamentalism. It's much easier to be against pre-natal screening if you're against all abortion *per se*. It's a simplistic response. It's also abhorrent to most of us.
- 2) We can run away from confronting the geneticists. GM foods are so much easier to campaign against. Trouble is, we'll be at the bottom of the eugenics slippery slope before we know it.
- 3) We can try to respond on their own terms. We can complain about some of the more overtly eugenic scientists, but avoid challenging the underlying assumptions. We'll probably lose (but if you want to give it a go, try the '**Frequently Asked Questions**' below).
- 4) Or we can try to challenge their assumptions about public health care, parental choice, normality. . . . And we've got a secret weapon too: the alternatives. Funding limitations mean that they are, and will be, in direct opposition with the new genetics. (See '**Alternatives**' box.)

## *Aren't you just anti-science?*

We're against **bad** science, that oversimplifies genetics and ignores other factors in disease. Science should not be treated like a God, untouchable and exempt from ethical debate.

## *Aren't you scare-mongering?*

New genetics developments encourage people to think about "improving" desirable characteristics and avoiding "abnormalities." As the technology improves, the dangers of this leading to eugenics increase.

## *What harm does gene therapy do anyone?*

Gene therapy (ie curing a living person by altering or treating their genes) does not work. It never has. This is about screening and eliminating, not curing.

## *Don't you want to help sick people?*

Sickness is caused by many factors, but especially social and environmental degradation. Pouring money into genetics diverts resources and attention from better cures, and creates false expectations.

## *Are you against parental choice?*

It should be an informed choice, made against the background of a society that will care for those with impairments and offer the correct support to parents. Parents want healthy babies: most pre-natal screening offers anxieties, false hopes (it's not exact or complete) and, if a "problem" is diagnosed, directive counselling.

## **Alternatives:**

Health issues are complex and multifactorial. We would improve public health far more successfully by concentrating on the basics:

- ▷ good quality housing, increased welfare benefits, better nutrition
- ▷ less pollution, cleaner air, healthier cities
- ▷ more active lifestyles, less road transport
- ▷ reducing social and health inequalities

And as treatments for disabilities?

- Non-western and holistic medicines and therapies have delivered symptomatic relief to many, despite lack of funding.
- We should be educating society (ourselves) to accept and integrate disabled people, not trying to eliminate them.
- Most impairments are not related to genetic diseases. All the new genetics offers is increased social stigma and diversion of money (and skills).

## Nipping it in the bud

And if we don't challenge the new medical genetics, and its hold on the public purse (and on university science courses), it's not long before the promise of 'therapy' will become the reality of 'elimination' — before parental 'choice' demands screening for the criminal/stupid/ugly/gay/misfit/free-thinking gene. Let's nip this one in the bud — because that's exactly what they plan to do with anyone that society happens to be unable or unwilling to cope with.

For a start, come to the National Genetix Action in Newcastle upon Tyne, 27th May

## **Resources & Contacts:**

**Women's Environmental Network:** 87 Worship Street, London, EC2A 2BE, 'phone 020 7247 3327, email [wenuk@gn.apc.org](mailto:wenuk@gn.apc.org)

**The Corner House:** PO Box 3137, Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1YJ, 'phone 01258 473 795, email [cornerhouse@gn.apc.org](mailto:cornerhouse@gn.apc.org), website <http://www.icaap.org/Cornerhouse/> (includes text of an excellent briefing, "If cloning is the answer, what was the question?")

**GeneNo:** PO Box 1TA, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1TA, website <http://www.sandyford.techie.org.uk/geneno1.html> (including booklet on the International Centre for Life in Newcastle)

**GenEthics News:** PO Box 6313, London, N16 0DY, website <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/genethicsnews/> (regular newsletter and good links from the website, and apols for stealing the cartoons)



# EFI! CONTACTS MAY 2000

Action Groups are local EFI contacts. Some of them are active groups, some of them are aspiring towards this but need more people to get in touch. Some are just people who will know what is going on direct action wise in their area. The Propaganda section lists non-EFI publications which we think are worth reading. International Contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. Other Contacts are ones whose aims and principles we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups web addresses visit <http://www.snet.co.uk/efi/> New additions and alterations are shown in bold.

## ACTION GROUPS

**Bath EFI**  
c/o PO Box 426, Bath  
Somerset BA1 2ZD

**Bristol EFI**  
c/o Box 51  
Greenleaf Bookshop  
82 Colston Street  
Bristol BS1 5BB  
0117 939 3093

**Cambridge EFI**  
Box E, 12 Mill Road  
Cambridge CB1 2AD

**Cheltenham EFI**  
16 Portland Street  
Cheltenham  
Gloucs. GL52 2PB

**Exeter Environ. Network**  
PO Box 185  
Exeter EX4 4EW

**Guildford EFI**  
PO Box 217  
Guildford GU1 1WS  
fax 01483 203212

**Gwynedd & Mon EFI**  
The Greenhouse  
1 Trevelyan Terrace  
Bangor, Gwynedd  
LL57 1AX  
01248 355821  
[afu01b@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:afu01b@bangor.ac.uk)

**Hull Op Earth**  
c/o PO Box 43  
Hull HU1 1AA

**Irwell Valley EFI**  
c/o Manchester EFI  
[ivf@nematode.free-serve.co.uk](mailto:ivf@nematode.free-serve.co.uk)

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Leeds LS7 3HB  
0113 262 9365  
[leedsef@ukf.net](mailto:leedsef@ukf.net)

**Liverpool EFI**  
96 Bold Street  
Liverpool L1 4HY  
[liverpool@hotmai.com](mailto:liverpool@hotmai.com)

**LuneAC (Lancaster)**  
01524 593878  
[luneac@joymail.com](mailto:luneac@joymail.com)

**Manchester EFI**  
Dept 29  
255 Wilmslow Road  
Manchester M14 5LW  
0161 226 6814  
[manct@nematode.free-serve.co.uk](mailto:manct@nematode.free-serve.co.uk)

**Mid-Somerset EFI**  
PO Box 23, 5 High St.  
Glastonbury,  
Somerset BA6 9PU

**Norwich Direct Action Forum**  
PO Box 487  
Norwich NR2 3AL  
07931 308091  
[Directactionforum@egroups.com](mailto:Directactionforum@egroups.com)

**Nottingham EFI**  
c/o the Rainbow Ctr  
182 Mansfield Road  
Nottingham NG1 3HW  
0115 958 5666

**Oldham EFI**  
PO Box 127  
OLDHAM  
OL4 3FE

**Oxford Community Action Box E**  
111 Magdalen Rd  
OXFORD OX4 1RQ

**Reclaim the Streets**  
PO Box 9656, London  
N4 4JY 0171 281 4621  
<http://www.gn.apc.org/rtsl/>

**Reclaim the Valleys**  
c/o Swansea  
Environment Centre  
Pier Street  
Swansea SA1 1RY

**Reading Roadbusters**  
R.I.S. Centre  
35-39 London Street  
Reading  
Berkshire RG1 4PS  
0118 954 6430  
[roadbusters@clara.net](mailto:roadbusters@clara.net)

**Sheffield E.F.I.**  
c/o Brambles Resource Centre, 82 Andover st,  
Sheffield, S3 9EH.  
0114 2797164  
[jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk)

**South Devon EFI**  
**See Totnes Genetics Group**

**Swansea People EFI**  
c/o Green Action  
Swansea Uni SU  
Swansea, Wales

**South Wales Activism Network (SWAN)**  
PO Box 70, Newport,  
NP1 0YD [swangroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:swangroup@yahoo.co.uk)

**TAPP (Timeside Action for People & Planet)**  
PO Box ITA  
Newcastle NE99 1TA

**Warwick EFI**  
c/o Green Society  
Warwick Uni SU  
Coventry CV4 7AL  
[suavad@csv.warwick.ac.uk](mailto:suavad@csv.warwick.ac.uk)

**Wildfire Collective**  
PO Box 3249  
Brighton BN1 4SN

**Wolves Eco Action**  
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs  
Wolves Uni SU  
Wulfruna Street  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1LY

**York EFI**  
c/o York LEAF  
PO Box 323, York

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Activists' Legal Project**  
16b Cherwell Street  
Oxford OX4 1BG  
01865243772  
[activistslegal@gn.apc.org](mailto:activistslegal@gn.apc.org)

**Anarchist Teapot**  
Mobile Kitchen, Box B  
Public House Bookshop  
21 Little Preston Street  
Brighton BN1 2HQ

**Blatant Incitement Project** (outreach & small group support)  
c/o Manc. EFI  
[doim@nematode.free-serve.co.uk](mailto:doim@nematode.free-serve.co.uk)

**Spirit of Freedom**  
(Earth Lib. Prisoners)  
c/o Leeds EFI  
[earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com](mailto:earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com)

**Aufheben**  
Brighton & Hove  
Unemployed Workers' Centre, 4 Crestway  
Parade, Hollingdean  
Brighton BN1 7BL  
[aufheben99@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aufheben99@yahoo.co.uk)

**Corporate Watch**  
16b Cherwell St.  
Oxford OX4 1BG  
01865 791391 mail  
[@corporatwatch.org](mailto:@corporatwatch.org)

## PROPAGANDA

**Courier Information**  
c/o Transmission  
28 Kings Street  
Glasgow G1 5QP

**Do or Die**  
c/o Prior House,  
6 Tilbury Place,  
Brighton BN2 2GY  
[doordtp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:doordtp@yahoo.co.uk)

**FINs - for a full list of free information networks & more, send SAE to: London FIN**  
c/o 99 Torrino Avenue  
London NW5 2RX  
Green Anarchist  
BCM 1715  
London WC1N3XX

**i-Contact video network**  
78 Mina Road, Bristol  
BS2 9TX,  
0117 914 0188  
[i-contact@videonetwork.org](mailto:i-contact@videonetwork.org)

**The Loombreaker**  
c/o Manchester EFI

**Peace News**  
5 Caledonian Road  
London N1 9DY  
RadiX-europe wide DA  
video lending library  
c/o Projektwerkstatt  
Gostenhefer Hauptstr 50  
D-90443 Nuernberg  
Germany  
+49 (0) 911 2875880  
[RadiX@pathfindermail.com](mailto:RadiX@pathfindermail.com)

**West Country Activist**  
c/o PO Box 478  
Taunton TA2 7YR  
[wca@conk.com](mailto:wca@conk.com)

**Undercurrents**  
16b Cherwell St, Oxford,  
OX4 1BG 01865 203662  
[underc@gn.apc.org](mailto:underc@gn.apc.org)

## CONTACTS

**Advisory Service for Squatters**  
2 Saint Pauls Road  
London N1 2QN  
0171 359 8814  
[advice@squal.free-serve.co.uk](mailto:advice@squal.free-serve.co.uk)

**ALF Supporters Group**  
BCM Box 1160  
London WC1N 3XX  
1003021616@compuserve.com

**Anarchist Federation**  
c/o 84b Whitechapel  
High Street  
London E1 7QX  
[Acf@burn.ucsd.edu](mailto:Acf@burn.ucsd.edu)  
<http://www.afed.org.uk>

**Anti-Fascist Action**  
BM Box 1734  
London WC1N 3XX

**Anti-Quarry Action (AQUA)**  
Kimberly Mill Park  
King's Steignton  
TQ12 3NR  
01626 363844

**CAGE (against prison building)**  
07931 401 962

**Chiapas Link**  
Box 79, 82 Colston  
Street, Bristol  
[chiapaslink@yahoo.com](mailto:chiapaslink@yahoo.com)

**Disabled Action Network**  
3 Crawley Road  
Wood Green, London  
N22 6AN 0181 8891361  
[lecofaeries@c/o Leeds EFI](mailto:lecofaeries@c/o Leeds EFI)

**DELTA**  
Box Z, 13 Biddulph St,  
Leicester LE2 1BH  
0116 210 9652  
[lynx@gn.apc.org](mailto:lynx@gn.apc.org)  
[www.oneworld.org/delta](http://www.oneworld.org/delta)

**Forest Action Network**  
(as for Norfolk EFI)  
01603 611953  
[fanuk@envirolink.org](mailto:fanuk@envirolink.org)

**Genetic Engineering Network (GEN)**  
(as for RTS)  
0181 374 9516  
[genetics@gn.apc.org](mailto:genetics@gn.apc.org)

**Genetix Snowball**  
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One World Centre  
6 Mount Street  
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0161 834 0295  
[genetixsnowball@onet.co.uk](mailto:genetixsnowball@onet.co.uk)

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0121 632 6460

**Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.**  
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[hisa@gn.apc.org](mailto:hisa@gn.apc.org)

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**The Land is Ours**  
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**Legal Defence & Monitoring Group**  
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London WC1N 3XX  
0181 5337116

**Making Waves**  
PO Box 1377, Sheffield  
S36 4BZ 01226 764279  
[pp3mo@aol.com](mailto:pp3mo@aol.com)

**London GreenPeace & McLibel Support Campaign**  
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[info@mcspotlight.org](mailto:info@mcspotlight.org)

**No Opencast**  
190 Shepherds Bush Rd  
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0171 603 1831

**The Rational Trust**  
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c/o 21 Beaulieu Close,  
Swindon, SN5 8AQ  
0788 0592370 /  
0836 743581

**Schnews**  
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E. Sussex BN2 2DX  
01273 685913

**Solidarity Federation**  
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Manchester, M15 5HW  
0161 232 7889

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**Third Battle of Newbury**  
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**Trident Ploughshares**  
2000 (anti-nuke direct  
disarmament)  
01324 880744  
[www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/](http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/)

**Totnes Genetics Group**  
PO Box 77, Totnes  
Devon TQ95ZJ  
01803840096

**URGENT (greenfield housing network)**  
Box HN, 16b Cherwell  
St, Oxford, OX4 1BG  
01865 794 800  
[info@urgent.org.uk](mailto:info@urgent.org.uk)

## PROTEST CAMPS

**Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp**  
(alternative weekends)  
33 Heron Road  
Bristol BS5 0LT  
0117 939 3746

**Avon Ring Road Protest Camp**  
c/o 84 Colston Street  
Bristol BS1 5BB  
0797 999 0389

**Birmingham Northern Relief Road**  
07931 161 761

**Faslane Peace Camp**  
Shandon, Helensburgh  
Dunbartonshire  
Scotland G84 8HT  
01436 820 901

**Friends of Lyminge Forest**  
c/o 3 Abbott Road  
Folkstone, Kent CT20  
1NG 01303 257046 /  
07803 1738  
[merfin@envirolink.org](mailto:merfin@envirolink.org)

**Golden Cross Road Camp (nr. Southend)**  
07833191951

**9 Ladies Anti Quarry Camp**  
Lees Cross, Lees Road  
Stanton Lees, Matlock,  
Derbyshire  
<http://pages.zoom.co.uk/1-nineladies/>

**Park Nook Camp c/o Liverpool EFI**  
0403176279

**Pressmennan Woods Camp**  
c/o 7 Pitcox,  
Dunbar, EH42 1RQ  
01368 850630

**Sellafield Women's Peace Camp**  
(bi-monthly) Box Z  
(see Leeds EFI)  
0113 262 1534  
56a Infoshop  
56 Crompton Street  
London SE17 3AE  
Open 2-8pm Thurs & Fri

**Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh**  
17 West Montgomery  
Place, Edinburgh EH7  
5HA 0131 557 6242  
[lothian@burn.ucsd.edu](mailto:lothian@burn.ucsd.edu)

**A-Spire (see Leeds EFI)**  
[a-spire@geocities.com](mailto:a-spire@geocities.com)  
autonomous zone

**Citizen Smith**  
Old Community Centre  
161 College Road  
Kensal Green, London  
NW10 3PH  
07931 980534  
[citizensmithuk@hotmail.com](mailto:citizensmithuk@hotmail.com)

**Kebele Community Ctr**  
14 Robertson Road  
Eastville  
Bristol BS5 6JY  
0117 939 9469  
[kebele@marsbard.com](mailto:kebele@marsbard.com)

**1 in 12 Club**  
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01274 734160

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**The Editors of the Earth First! Action Update** do not intend to encourage people to carry out any illegal action. The Action Update is for information purposes only.

## Bastille Day

On 14th July 1789, the people of Paris stormed the Bastille. On July 14th 2000 diverse and independent groups will unite, taking action against prisons and the companies behind them.

Now is an important time, private companies are building and running prisons for profit, allowing more prisons to be built and creating a huge industry that protects the powerful and the rich. Security Companies like Group4, Wakenhut and Correction Corporation of America, construction firms such as Kvaerner and Carrilion and even hotel corporations like Sodexo are fighting for contracts to build and run prisons. Hundreds of others from Microsoft to The Ecologist magazine are queuing up to exploit cheap prison workers.

Prison populations are growing, but so is our resistance. There are groups fighting on a whole range of prison, policing and asylum issues. Here is an opportunity to bring our struggles together. Around Bastille Day "CAGE" will be organising an occupation of a space related to the prison industry. They aim to transform it into a place where resistance can grow and groups of people can meet, discuss ideas, plot and scheme and promote their campaigns. They also aim to build on Bastille Day to create a broad network of groups resisting the prison industry.

CAGE is a network set up to support and create resistance to prisons. They organise without leaders to take direct action against prison building.

e-mail: [prison@narchy.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:prison@narchy.fsnet.co.uk)  
Bastille Day discussion list: [bastilleday@narchy.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:bastilleday@narchy.fsnet.co.uk)  
post: CAGE c/o PO Box 68, Oxford, OX3 1RH, England  
tel: 07931 401 962 web: [www.veggies.org.uk/cage](http://www.veggies.org.uk/cage)

## Action Diary

### APRIL

30 6pm Southbank, Critical Mass.  
2pm Highbury Fields, Class of 2000 event against the Terrorism Bill. Contact 0161 2266814.

### MAY

1 MAYDAY International Workers' Day, events in Norwich, Brighton, Bristol, Sheffield, Manchester, Southampton & London:  
11am Parliament Square, Guerrilla Gardening.  
11am Bond Street Tube, solidarity action for framed Italian revolutionaries.  
<http://www.freespeech.org/mayday2k>  
Glasgow:

Mayday 2000. Festival of Ideas, Action, Celebration. <http://www.mayfirst.fsnet.co.uk>  
4 NVDA at British Aerospace AGM, QE II Centre, London. Contact CAAT 020 7281 0297.

6 End the Prohibition of Cannabis, Worldwide & London: 1pm march from Kennington Park

Cannabis Carnival 2pm Brockwell Park, Brixton. Contact 0171 637 7467  
[may2000@schrtioo.co.uk](mailto:may2000@schrtioo.co.uk)

6 Day & night for the People of Iraq, London. Contact 0207 8725451 or 01865 243232.

10 Beagle Bark-In outside British Heart Foundation HQ, London. Contact 0181 870 3996.

12-17 Hope & Resistance Gathering on Non-violence, Oxford. [rowantilly@gn.apc.org](mailto:rowantilly@gn.apc.org)

13 Faslane Carnival - have fun and help stop Trident. Contact 01414231222/ 0132 4880744.

13 International day of action for Mumia Abu Jamal. Contact 020 7538 5821

18-25 Aldermaston TP2000 camp. Contact 01324 880744 22. Blockade Aldermaston, 6am. 01603 493091/01865 725991/07967819514

20 National Demo at Huntingdon Life Sciences vivisection labs, Cambridgeshire. Contact 0121 632 6460.

26-29 Women Speak Out weekend gathering, London. Contact 0181 374 9885.

27 National Day of Action against British Heart Foundation. Contact 0181 870 3966.

27 Reclaim Life action at opening of International Centre for Life, Newcastle. Contact 0797 479 1841.

27 EFAU weekend for past and present editors. Contact AU mobile.

### JUNE

3 Mass Moon at Buckingham Palace, 3pm  
[moveagainston@hotmail.com](mailto:moveagainston@hotmail.com)  
7-11 Earth First! Summer Gathering, N.Wales  
[summergathering@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:summergathering@yahoo.co.uk)  
30-July 2 Big Blether 2. Scottish Direct  
Action/eco-campaigning gathering. Contact 0131 557 6242.

### JULY

14 Bastille Day Action, CAGE. Contact 07931 401962  
15 Protest Naked at New Scotland Yard, 2pm.  
The Freedom to be Yourself, 208 Foleshill Rd, Coventry, CV1 4JH.

### AUGUST

1 Faslane/Coulport Blockade. Contact 01324 880744.

## Regular Events

Continuous, Faslane: Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland G84 8NT; 01436-820901.

Every Monday, London, 5.30-7pm: vigil outside the Foreign Office, Whitehall (corner of King Charles St SW1) calling for the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq. The vigil has been held for 8½ years. Org. ARROW. Tel. David, 0171-607 2302.

Every Tuesday, Birmingham, 4.30-6pm: vigil on Victoria St. for lifting of sanctions against Iraq. Info: 0121-523 0036.

Every Wednesday, Coventry, 5-7pm: vigil for lifting of sanctions against Iraq, at Belgrade Theatre. 01203-663031.

Every Wednesday, Manchester, 12.30-1pm: vigil for lifting of Iraqi sanctions; in St Peter's Square. Org: Salford CND, 01942-894862.

Every Friday, London, 8pm: London Anarchist Forum meeting at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square WC1. Info: Peter, 0181-847 0203.

Every Saturday, London, noon-2pm: vigil for the release of Vanunu, Kensington High St, opposite the end of Palace Green W5, near the Israeli Embassy. (Tube: Kensington High St.) Held for over 8 years. Details: Campaign to Free Vanunu, 0171-378 9324.

Every Saturday, Cambridge, noon-1.30pm: vigil against Iraqi sanctions outside Guildhall in Market Place. Contact: Janet, 01954-719644.

1st Sat. ev. 2<sup>nd</sup> month, Menwith Hill, 2pm: Quaker mtg for worship. Info Anni, 01943-466405

2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend each month, Aldermaston: Women's Peace Camp at Falcoth Gate. Info, 0117-939 3746.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday every month, Molesworth, afternoon: Molesworth Gardeners. Info: Ti-Pi, 6 Warden Hill Close, Luton, Beds. LU2 7AQ.

3<sup>rd</sup> weekend each month, Menwith Hill: weekend gathering. Fri pm-Sun noon. Info: 01943-466825.

Last Saturday of each month, Campsfield, noon-2pm: demo. outside refugee detention centre, Oxfordshire. Tel. 01865-558145/726804/722357.

Last full weekend every other month, Sellafeld: women's peace camp. Info Tracy: 0113-262 1534.

## Blackout Campsfield

On Saturday 25th March, people took down the main electric supply cables at Campsfield Detention Centre, Kidlington near Oxford. The aim was to cause major inconvenience to the running of the private detention centre. Safety precautions were taken because of the very high voltage involved and no injuries resulted.

Unfortunately the cables refused to snap, despite the pole holding them up being destroyed. The lights didn't go out during the action, but the electricity supply will have to be shut off to enable the thousand's of pounds of damage to be repaired.

Campsfield House holds around 200 men, most of whom are political refugees. It is run for profit, as a high security prison, by Group 4, on behalf of the Immigration Service. People are being held without charge, without time limit, without proper reasons given and without decent access to legal representation. An Amnesty International report says that these are 'breaches of internationally recognised human rights'.

## Wiser Monkeys in Sheffield

A new squat community centre, Wiser Monkeys, has opened in Sheffield. The squat is part of the run up to the Sheffield mayday celebrations. The opening party was a rip roaring success, and the plan is to be open for at least three weeks, with the Sheffield mayday festivities happening at the end of the second week. For those visiting the address is 140 & 148 Devonshire Street, Sheffield. jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk or phone the squat on 0114 281 2814

## Close Down Huntingdon Life Sciences

On World Day for Lab Animals (22 April) around 2000 people, dressed in black from head to foot and wearing skull masks, went to Huntingdon Life Sciences vivisection labs in Cambridgeshire. After drumming, music and emotional speeches, some people cut through the fence around the lab with bolt cutters, and around 150 people surged inside. A second fence of razor wire was crushed to the ground, and a makeshift bridge over a large ditch was constructed using an old gate. Once inside the grounds, some people got in with the animals, while others managed to get into the labs where workers were shaken up by coming face to face with demonstrators. Two people scaled the roof of the building. Police seemed to be fairly laid-back, and when they realised what was happening they just pushed people back out of the hole they had come through, with few arrests. The crowd then blocked the A1, bringing traffic to a standstill, and also blocked the A14 roundabout. At a BP petrol station 7 windows of a McDonalds were smashed, with staff later saying they were unable to identify who did it because of the masks. Later on, the house of two Huntingdon workers, who have said publicly that they're proud of what they do for a living, was visited by a group of about 20 people. More info from Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (see Contacts)

Contact us at: EFAU, P.O.Box 1TA, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1TA  
0797 4791841 <actionupdate@gn.apc.org>  
www.eco-action.org/efau  
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(When sending us articles, please enter 'article' in the subject line.)

## Stop the Rubbish Rat

Residents of Gartocher Terrace in Glasgow are running a direct action campaign to stop William 'Rubbish Rat' Combe moving his waste disposal business into the quiet street. Residents, including children, and supporters staged a sit in at freemason Combe's chief allies H.Q. - the local police station. More recently, Combe's skip lorries were stopped from entering the street for 2 days by an ingenious blockade which included a pallet loaded with bricks suspended above the road, and a community caravan which has been bought by the residents.

At the end of March, the 'Rubbish Rat' brought a skip lorry smelling like the sewers down the street. A resident went out to video as Glasgow City Council had said this was the only evidence they'd accept. Police grabbed and confiscated the camera, arrested the resident for 'taking unwanted photographs,' and then held him for 24 hours, escorting the skip through. Later that day, 7 children in the street contracted gastroenteritis and one was hospitalised. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, two supporters from Faslane Peace Camp were arrested after one tried to defend himself from being hit by Combe. Local police have proved again to be the best police money can buy. Since this incident, Combe has brought no more full skips through, but may do so at any time. Help is needed and there is plenty to do, from blockading, to demos, to researching links between Combe and the council. Tel: 07979 836 223.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE EFAU ACTION UPDATE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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NE99 1TA, England

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